

Absolutism & Government

History 112 - February 2013

Outcome 1.1.4

- Students will understand and be able to explain how and why France's **Absolute** government functioned without the consent of the governed.

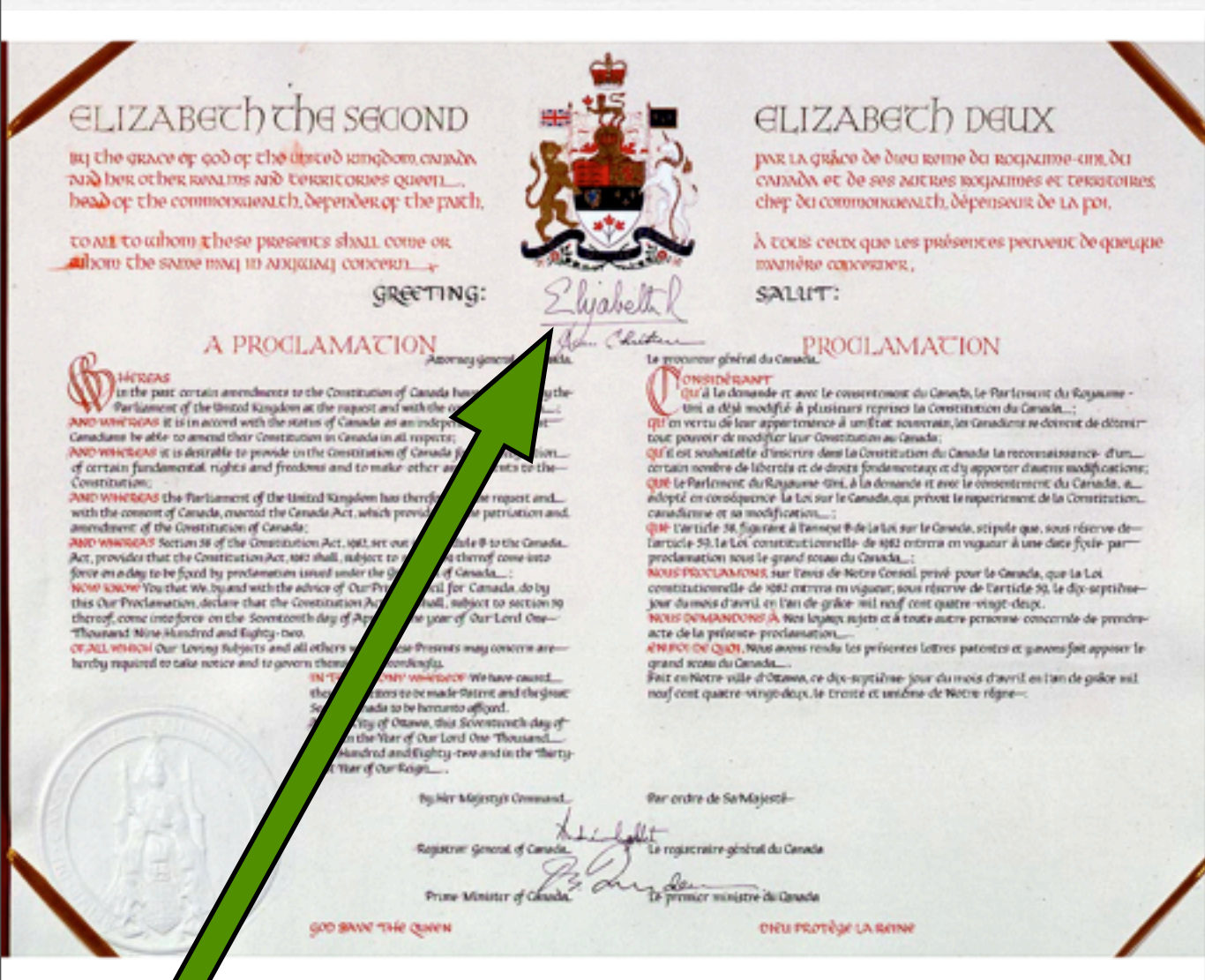
Terms to Know

- ❧ Absolutism
- ❧ Divine Right of Kings
- ❧ Democracy
- ❧ Constitution
- ❧ Rights
- ❧ Versailles
- ❧ Louis XIV
- ❧ Louis XVI
- ❧ Bourgeoisie

Hint: These can all be found in the readings that we assume you have done.

Question:

- ❧ What gives governments the authority to make decisions for the people they govern?
 - ❧ Discuss with row partners.



In Canada that authority comes from the people themselves as represented in the House of Commons, and from the Crown.

How are Governments chosen in Canada?

How are Governments chosen in Canada?

- ❧ Governments are appointed by the Crown.
- ❧ Parliament is elected - Parliament is NOT the Government.
- ❧ The Government acts on behalf of the Crown.
- ❧ Three separate institutions:
 - ❧ The Crown/Government
 - ❧ The Parliament
 - ❧ The People



Queen's Privy Council for Canada
AKA - "The Government"

Constitutional Monarchy

- ❧ *Definition:* When a monarch acts as the Head of State within the parameters of a written constitution and/or unwritten convention or both.
- ❧ The Head of State is the person who holds the highest position in the government system of a country and has the power to act as the chief representative of that country. Typically they enact/authorize Laws and the spending of Public Money.



Elizabeth II: Queen of Canada

Absolute Monarchy

- ❧ *Definition:* When the Monarch is:
 - ❧ The Head of State, AND
 - ❧ The Head of Government, AND
 - ❧ Their power is not limited by a constitution.

Two famous Absolute Monarchs



King Louis XIV of
France
1638-1715



King Louis XVI of
France
1754-1793

Where do *Absolute* monarchs get
the authority to govern?

Where do Absolute monarchs get the authority to govern?

- ❧ “The Divine Right of Kings”
- ❧ *Definition:* When the Monarch claims to answer to no earthly authority, deriving the right to rule directly from God. Any attempt to oppose, challenge, or remove the King is contrary to the will of God.

Does this exist today?

Not really, but we still see
remnants of it on our coins...

Elizabeth II D.G. Regina

Dei Gratia Regina (Latin)

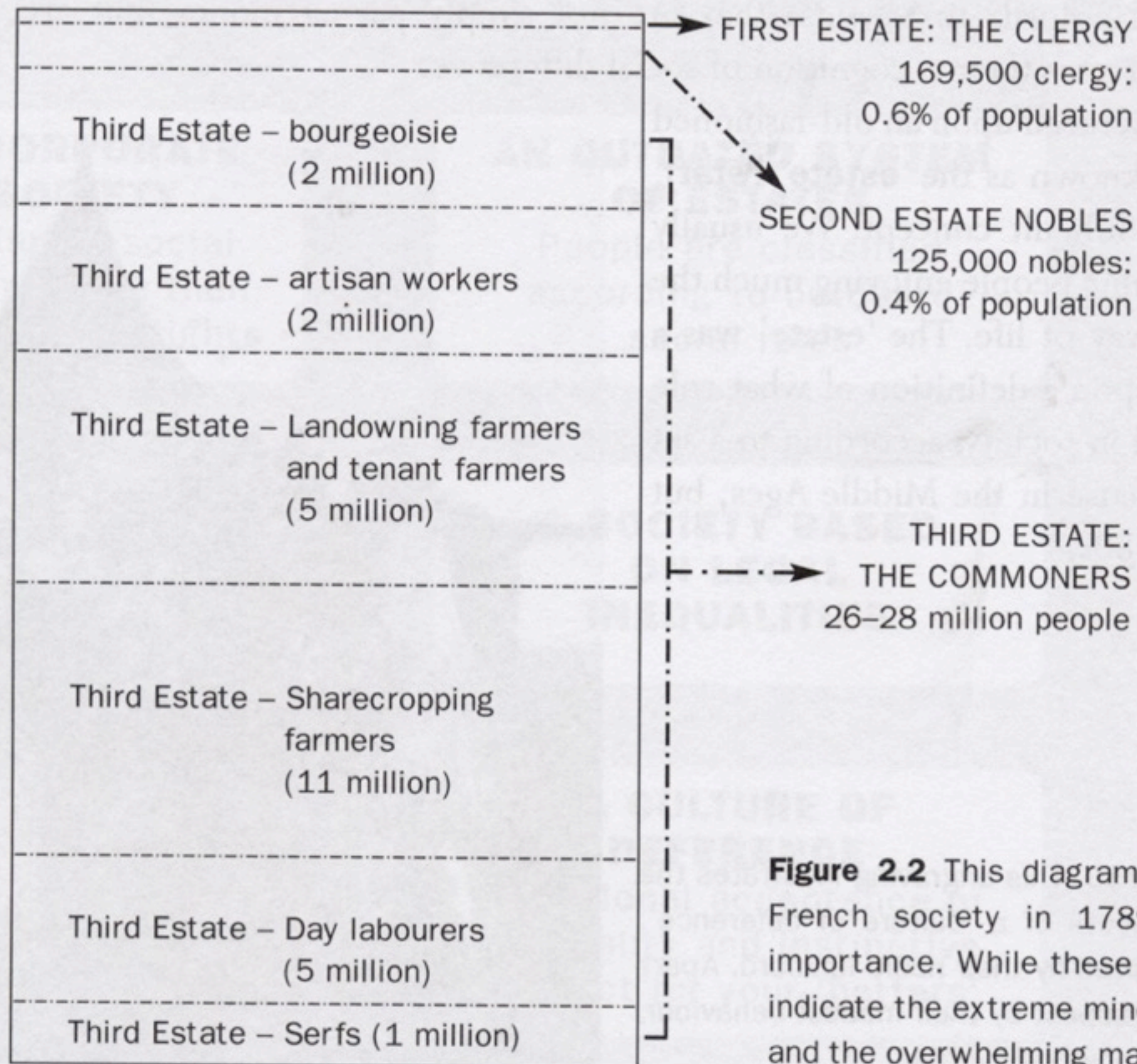
“By the Grace of God, Queen”



Where the French 1% lived in the 18th Century



Versailles Palace



**Remember the
Occupy
Movement? Note
who is the 1% in
this system...**

Figure 2.2 This diagram¹ shows the different groups in French society in 1789 and their relative numerical importance. While these figures are approximate, they do indicate the extreme minority of the two privileged estates and the overwhelming majority enjoyed by the Third Estate.



Where the Nobles / 2nd Estate / 1% lived in France